

Town of Polk
Ordinance No: 10-08
Burning Permits in the Town of Polk

The Town of Polk of Washington County, does hereby ordain as follows:

A Burning Permit is required in the Town of Polk for the burning of branches, brush, leaves, garden waste, and weeds. Burning of these items, is permissible after obtaining a Burning Permit from the Town Clerk. No other materials are allowed to be burned. This is a DNR rule.

Twenty Acres or More: The open burning of brush, abandoned crops, leaves, grass, and similar open fires may occur on parcels of land of 20 (twenty acres) or more without a permit when done by the owner or occupant, subject to the following:

1. No such open fire may be started except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
2. No such open fire shall be started until the Washington County Sheriff's Department is notified of the time and the location.

Responsibility:

You are responsible for calling the Washington County Sheriff's Department, to report that you will be burning.

1. You are still responsible for the fire that you start. A responsible adult must attend to the fire at all times, during the burning. The party obtaining the Burning Permit is responsible for damage caused by such fire, if it should become out of control. Attending a fire means a physical presence with a means to extinguish the fire, including a rake, shovel, hose connections and other materials used as fire safety precautions. Do NOT use accelerants such as gasoline, or any other chemical that would escalate burning.
2. Any person which violates the terms of this section, or burns in a manner which results in a fire run from any fire department, shall, be liable for any costs incurred by such fire, including but not limited to fire department charges, county sheriff department charges, and any damages caused by such fire.
3. Locate the fire a minimum of 50 (fifty) feet from any occupied dwelling, wood structure, street, alley, property line, or building.
4. Care should be taken regarding the direction of smoke travel so as to not create a nuisance for neighbors. In the event of unsafe burning conditions (high winds, dry conditions or any other hazards), burning should be suspended.
5. Any person violating this ordinance by not following the rules herein, or any person violating this ordinance BY NOT obtaining a current Burning Permit from the Town of Polk, shall be subject to a forfeiture of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) plus statutory costs, for the first offense and \$250.00 (two hundred fifty dollars) plus statutory costs, for the second offense occurring within a twelve (12) month period of time, payable to the Town of Polk for violating this ordinance. This fee is in addition to other costs incurred because of such fire set by person(s) obtaining a burning permit in the Town of Polk.
6. Burning Permits may be obtained from the Town of Polk Town Clerk's office from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Monday - Thursday at the Town Hall. This permit will be issued for 4 (four) weeks. It can be renewed.

Restrictions:

The Town of Polk PROHIBITS the burning the following materials:

- a. Household garbage.
- b. Oily substances (including greasy rags, oil filters, etc).
- c. Asphalt shingles or tar paper.
- d. Plastics (including plastic bottles, plastic bags).
- e. Rubber products (including tires and hoses).
- f. Wet, combustible rubbish (including wet cardboard or paper.
- g. Painted or treated wood.
- h. Foam.
- i. Furniture.
- g. Wire, Metal, Aluminum, Vinyl products.

Recycling has been a top priority for the Town of Polk. We strive to follow the laws governing the state of Wisconsin regarding the regulations of reducing, reusing, and recycling. The Town of Polk encourages the composting or chipping of yard waste. Residents are encouraged to drop off their yard waste at the Town Recycling Center.

This ordinance shall repeal Section 9.12 OPEN BURNING of the Town of Polk Fire Protection Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and posting.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2010.

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Chairman Albert Schulteis

_____ ,

Supervisor Harold Groth

_____ ,

Supervisor Theodore Merten

Attested By: _____ ,

Marlyss K. Thiel, Town Clerk